(d) Does not arise. However. Orders have been issued to treat the period of absence as dies-non and that it shall not entail forfeiture of past service.

Adverse Sex Ratio of Population in the Country

1111. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the sex ratio between men and women in the country has been falling since 1901 and it has come down from 972 females to 927 per 1,000 males;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the ratio of female mortality has been higher than that for men :

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what measures Government have adopted to check the fall in popu lation ratio and the mortality ratio of female ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) As per decinnial censuses conducted in the country, sex ratio (females per 1000 males) continued declining from 972 in 1901 to 927 in 1991 except small improvements registered in 1951 and 1981.

(b) As per the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) estimates available, the female mortality rate in 1989 has come down to 10. i against 10.4 for males.

(c) and (d) The Government is undertaking several programmes focussing on the survival, protection and development of the girl child and to raise the status of women. A Bill entitled the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Bill, 1991 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha to curb the misuse of techniques leading to female foeticide.

Additional Benefit to the Government Employees Undergone vasectomy Operation in 1975

1112. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of HEA LTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government employees, who had gone for vasectomy operation in December, 1975, and fulfil the requisite conditions were are entitled for additional benefit of one increment and can avail the same now; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRT B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) In terms of the instructions contained in the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure O.M. dated the 4th December, 1979. the benefits are prospective.

Doctors Resentment over D.G.H.S. Selection

1113. SHRI RAMDAS AGAR WAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be plea sed to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn *to* a news item published in the Hindustan Times dated 19-4-93 captioned'Doctors sore' over D.G.H.S. Selection, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) in a recently given judgement had recommended to the Health Ministry that suitable amendments should be